



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Pueblo of Acoma, NM

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

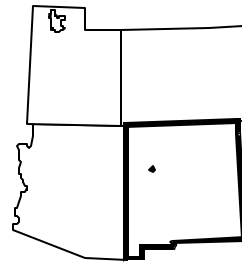
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Pueblo of Acoma for a Brownfields Pilot. The Acoma Reservation is 591 square miles, and is located in the northwest corner of Cibola County, approximately 65 miles west of Albuquerque. The Acoma Pueblo is one of 19 Pueblo Indian reservations in New Mexico. There are 6,344 members of the Acoma Tribe on the reservation, and the tribe's unemployment rate is 39 percent.

The Acoma Tribe believes in the importance of preserving the environment, and has a demonstrated commitment to environmental stewardship. The reservation itself is devoid of valuable natural resources and mostly consists of high-altitude, semi-arid land, but farming does occur in the valleys adjacent to the Rio San Jose. Tribal belief is that damage to farmland and livestock impacts the tribe itself; the tribe perceives environmental contamination as a barrier to its goal of self-sufficiency and good health. Indian Health Services indicates that two-thirds of Acoma youth under eight are afflicted with a number of different ailments, including tuberculosis, that are related to environmental contamination on the reservation. The tribe has identified eight sites of concern to address under the Pilot. Of primary concern are two former livestock dip vats (of five and ten acres) that are

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico

Date of Announcement:
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets a minimum of two sites on the Acoma Indian Reservation located near the Rio San Jose.

Contacts:

Acoma Environmental
Protection Agency
(505) 552-9700

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 6
(214) 665-6736

Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

contaminated with pesticides. Other brownfields sites on the reservation include an industrial storage yard, a fishery and irrigation facility, an old stockyard, and three closed landfill sites.

OBJECTIVES

In 1958, the Pueblo of Acoma established a vision for its future that included eleven tribal priorities. The Tribe takes action based upon the objectives of the vision. To date, the tribe has built a new school and hospital, paved roads, and lined irrigation canals. The Pilot directly addresses five of these priorities: environmental protection; agriculture; education; economic development; and social welfare. The Pilot will prioritize the sites that pose the most concern, then target specific sites for further assessment. It will also assist in designing cleanup and redevelopment plans for the sites.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Prioritizing potential brownfields sites;
- Conducting environmental assessments on at least two targeted sites;
- Providing an outreach and education program to the residents of the reservation;
- Conducting a bench test and treatability study at the dip vats; and
- Designing cleanup and redevelopment plans for the targeted sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.